

CLAIMS

1. A method of processing a sampled signal stream containing at least one spread spectrum signal comprising the steps of processing samples at a first bit level and, either in parallel or subsequently, processing samples at a second bit level, different from the first bit level.
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2. A method according to claim 1 wherein a change from processing the samples at the first bit level to the second bit level occurs upon experiencing difficulty acquiring a spread spectrum signal.
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3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the signal stream contains a GPS spread spectrum signal; wherein the step of processing samples at a first bit level is used to acquire the GPS signal; and wherein the step of processing samples at a second bit level is used to measure a pseudorange from the GPS signal.
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4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the signal stream is sampled at a higher bit level than at least one of the first or second bit levels; and wherein the samples are processed at one of either the first or second bit levels by selectively ignoring bits of the signal samples.
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5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the signal stream is sampled at a varying bit level of either first or second bit levels corresponding to the bit level at which those samples will be processed.
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6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the samples are processed in parallel at first and second bit levels for the purposes of acquiring respective spread spectrum signals.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the samples are processed in parallel at first and second bit levels for the purposes of acquiring the same spread spectrum signal.

5 8. A receiver configured to receive and sample a signal containing at least one spread spectrum signal, and to process that signal by a method according to any of the previous claims.

10 9. A computer configured to receive a sampled signal containing at least one spread spectrum signal from an external receiver, and to process that signal by a method according to any of claim 1 to 7.

15 10. A computer-readable storage medium having recorded thereon a computer program comprising instructions for performing a method according to any of claim 1 to 7.

11. A computer program comprising instructions for performing a method according to any of claim 1 to 7.